

the beautiful, new Oak Creek Community Center, will be honored, very fittingly, at a recognition dinner at the community center on June 7.

I look forward to joining John's many friends, business associates, and his family in paying tribute to him that evening.

KING'S COLLEGE JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 30, 1996

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to King's College, a distinguished institution of higher learning in my district in Pennsylvania. This week, King's will celebrate its Jubilee Anniversary, and I am pleased to be able to participate in this event.

King's College is fortunate to have as its president, Father James Lackenmier, C.S.C., who has demonstrated tremendous leadership during his tenure as president of King's. He has motivated both students and faculty members to participate in the activities of King's College and the surrounding community. He has driven his colleagues and students to always strive for the highest level of success, with special attention to an agenda he initiated for the college, "Emphasis on Excellence."

As early as 1938, Bishop William J. Hafey had a vision of a Catholic college in Wilkes-Barre, PA. The college would afford Catholics in the Wyoming Valley a chance for higher education. The Bishop postponed his dream while the depression lingered and the United States prepared for the Second World War. In 1944, when the war began to wind down, the Bishop took the steps to make his dream for a Catholic college a reality and contacted the Holy Cross Fathers at the University of Notre Dame. The Fathers were invited to open a sister school in Wilkes-Barre. Soon after his proposal was made, Bishop Hafey received word that the Holy Cross Fathers were interested in the idea.

Father John Cavanaugh, C.S.C. was sent from Notre Dame to discuss the details with Bishop Hafey. Shortly thereafter, Bishop Hafey traveled to New York to meet with Father Albert Cousineau, C.S.C., the Superior General of the Congregation of the Holy Cross to seek his sanctions of the plans. In March of 1945, Bishop Hafey got word that the Holy Cross Fathers accepted his invitation to establish King's College, the name chosen to honor Christ the King.

On April 20, 1945, The Catholic Light newsletter headline read "College for Men to be Opened in Wilkes-Barre." The opening date of the college depended on the "conclusion of the war" and "the ability to obtain priorities for the necessary renovations which must be made in the temporary home for King's College." Bishop Hafey had expectations that the many returning servicemen would use the G.I. Bill of Rights to enroll in college upon returning from the war.

Father James W. Connerton, C.S.C. arrived in Wilkes-Barre from the University of Notre Dame with \$200 in expense money and instructions to buy a typewriter and start the college. Until the faculty residence became available the following August, Father Connerton resided in St. Mary's Rectory as the guest of Bishop O'Connor.

Mr. Speaker, the early days of King's College were spent untying the administrative red tape, and obtaining the incorporation papers through the courts. Between May and September of 1946, 306 applicants were accepted for admission out of more than 500 young men. Most were newly discharged veterans just as Bishop Hafey had hoped. The faculty began to arrive in Wilkes-Barre. King's College became a reality.

A beaming Bishop Hafey celebrated the solemn opening mass. At the end of the liturgy the bishop spoke the words which have become the cornerstone of the beginnings of King's College.

The day when a seed planted is a day rooted in hope . . . this day the seed of a new college is planted in the soil of Luzerne County in the State of Pennsylvania. One hundred years from this day the unborn hundreds, perhaps thousands, will gather to recall historically its beginnings, to recount its growth, and especially to estimate its fruit, its worth to the community of human beings living here their temporal lives in preparation for life eternal; its service to God, to country and immortal souls.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible to estimate the value of King's College to the Wyoming Valley, King's has overcome 50 years of social and economic change. In 1972, when the Susquehanna River spilled its banks and inundated the Wyoming Valley, King's was among the hardest hit. The college survived the social changes of the turbulent 1960's and women became a familiar sight on campus. From its humble beginnings to a 15-acre campus which includes the College of Arts and Sciences and the McGowan School of Business, King's has been recognized by Barron's Best Buys in Higher Education and U.S. News and World Report.

Mr. Speaker, the Wyoming Valley and Wilkes-Barre are indeed fortunate that Bishop Hafey realized his dream some 50 years ago. I salute King's College and praise my friend Father Lackenmier for all his leadership. I wish all the best and much continued prosperity for the King's College, its students, and its graduates.

STATEMENT BY JENNIFER CARLSON, JOHN DRISCOLL, BEN LECLAIR, JENNIFER DESJARDIN, AND HEATHER WILES REGARD- ING FINANCIAL AID REFORM

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 30, 1996

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I would like to have printed in the RECORD this statement by five Champlain Valley Union High School students, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people:

John: We'd like to first have all the people out in the audience who are going to attend college to stand up right now. All right. Whoever can pay off college by themselves, without any assistance from the government, or the college, please keep standing. Anyone who requires any kind of financial aid, please sit down. Okay, I see one person out in the audience that can afford college.

Okay, that's what's happening around the country right now, is that people of our gen-

eration cannot afford college. The cost of many colleges are approaching \$30,000. People just can't afford that.

I know in my personal experience, I'm going to a college that costs \$28,000; my mom works full-time as a teacher, and she only makes \$26,000. Without financial aid of any sort, going to my college of choice would be impossible. And the U.S. is unique in this fact, in that almost all of its young and brightest citizens end up being in debt, be it \$30,000 or even \$100,000. This really isn't right.

Ben: And in today's society, having a college education is a must. Anyone that expects to succeed needs to have a college education. You've heard the facts already, that the males that go to college are 50% higher than high school graduates, and without the funding of student aid and good financial packages from colleges, it's impossible for our generation—for us, for any of us—to really make any contribution to our nation. And we're in strong support of raising student aid to normal people, not just the people that really need it, in the lower class, but in the middle class, where you won't qualify for the financial aid that you need. But yet, you can't afford to pay it yourself. John's got a graph that talks about how income has risen, and the cost of college has risen also.

(John got up with graph) As you can see, the bar on top is the Median* Household Income for families in U.S. (1980-2000); and at the bottom is the cost of 4-year colleges across the board. (*taken from U.S. Census Bureau) And the gap . . . ends up being about \$10,000; and \$10,000 is not enough for a family, the moderate American family, to live on. You also have to count taxes in that, and taxes slash the American family income by about 1/3. This means that the families have little or no income after paying for college.

Ben: And one of our resolutions is that as a student, you get a loan from the government, and in order to pay back the loan that the government gives, is by doing work for the government itself, in the field that they study. So, for instance, I want to study Journalism in college. Well, the government would give me a certain amount that would help pay for college that would lessen the burden on myself for paying it. A board would decide how long a person would have to work, say it would be 4 years for the government, or whatever, in that special range, working with public relations and communications, and so on and so forth. We believe that could work, and it very well can work. Also, we just read in the Globe about how President Clinton is (signal) working on doing . . . for every student in top 5% in the high school graduating gets a \$1,000 merit scholarship. That's good, but it's not enough. Each student, by need, has to have the necessity to make this country better, and without a proper education, it's not going to get any better.

John: One of the best things, in addition to loans, is federal financial aid, is to make all college costs deductible from your taxable income, so that—the family will have more disposable income, and can write-off more income, so they pay less taxes while sending their kids to school. Hopefully this will encourage more people to go to school. The government will get the money back in the long run, so it's not like it's hurting the budget that much.

Congressman Sanders: Okay. Thank you for your testimony. Let me ask you a couple of questions. Given the problems that you've articulated, what is your understanding as to what Congress is doing right now to address those problems?

Answer: Well the Republican-controlled majority in Congress has not been very forgiving of . . . the cost of college; they believe